

The following Listing of the Claims will replace all prior versions and all prior listings of the claims in the present application:

Listing of The Claims:

1-220. (Canceled)

221. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of ~~comprising~~ two separate RNA strands, a self-complementary double stranded structure, (dsRNA), and a 3' overhang, said double stranded structure being complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene, and not comprising a full length RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene, wherein the structure is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

222. (Previously presented) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said oligoribonucleotide consists of a length of between 15 and 49 nucleotides.

223. (Previously presented) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221 and 224, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

224. (Currently Amended) An isolated oligoribonucleotide, ~~having~~ consisting of a self-complementary double stranded structure (dsRNA) consisting of two ~~self-complementary~~ RNA strands of not more than 49 nucleotides in length, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands, wherein said structure is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

225. (Previously presented ) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 224, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

226-231. (Canceled).

232. (Currently Amended ) An isolated mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide ~~has~~ consists of a self-complementary double stranded structure (dsRNA) ~~comprising~~ consisting of two separate RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, wherein one strand of the dsRNA has a region which is complementary to an RNA transcript of a target gene, and wherein the dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

233. (Previously Presented) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

234. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the region is not more than 49 nucleotides in length.

235. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein the dsRNA has a length of between 15 and 49 base pairs.

236. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein the RNA transcript is a primary or a processed RNA.

237. (Currently Amended) An isolated mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide ~~has~~ consists of a self-complementary double stranded structure (dsRNA) ~~comprising~~ consisting of two RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang and is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a target gene, wherein the dsRNA comprises a linker between the two RNA strands, and wherein the dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

238. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 237, wherein the linker is a polyethylene glycol linker.

239. (Previously Presented ) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

240. (Canceled).

241. (Previously Presented ) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 221, wherein said 3' overhang is a single nucleotide overhang.

242. (Previously Presented ) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 241, wherein said oligoribonucleotide is 21 nucleotides in length.

243. (Previously Presented ) A composition comprising an oligoribonucleotide according to claim 221 and 224.

244. (Previously Presented ) The composition of claim 243, further comprising a second oligoribonucleotide, wherein said second oligoribonucleotide differs in sequence from said oligoribonucleotide.

245. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein said dsRNA is modified so as to be resistant to RNA degradation.

246. (Canceled).

247. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232 and 237, wherein said 3' overhang is a single nucleotide overhang.

248. (Previously Presented ) The mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein said exogenous oligoribonucleotide is vector encoded.

249. (Currently Amended) The oligoribonucleotide of Claim 221, wherein said double-stranded ~~region~~ structure is fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene.

250. (Previously Presented) A vector encoding the oligoribonucleotide of claim 221 or 224.

251. (Previously Presented ) The oligoribonucleotide of claim 224, wherein said double stranded structure consists of two self-complementary RNA strands of 15 to 49 nucleotides.

252. (New) An isolated oligoribonucleotide consisting of two separate RNA strands, a double stranded structure, (dsRNA), and a 3' overhang, said double stranded structure being fully complementary to less than the full length of an RNA transcript of a mammalian target gene, and not comprising a full length RNA transcript of said mammalian target gene, wherein the structure is not more than 49 nucleotides in length, and wherein the oligoribonucleotide specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.

253. (New) The isolated mammalian cell of claim 232, wherein said one strand of the dsRNA is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a target gene.

254. (New) An isolated mammalian cell comprising an exogenous oligoribonucleotide, wherein the oligoribonucleotide consists of a double stranded structure (dsRNA) consisting of two separate RNA strands, wherein the dsRNA comprises a 3' overhang, wherein one strand of the dsRNA is fully complementary to an RNA transcript of a target gene, and wherein the dsRNA specifically inhibits the expression of said target gene.